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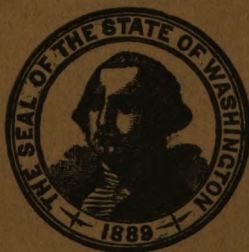
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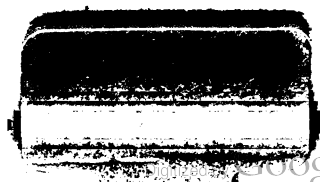
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State Museum Bulletin Number 1

Sketch of
the
STATE MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
by
F. S. HALL, Curator



Seattle, Washington
1910

Museum Buildings



MUSEUM

HISTORICAL SKETCH

It was several years after the founding of the University of Washington before any attempt was made toward securing any specimens for a museum at this institution. The first collection made was a small ethnological collection consisting of spears, arrows, stone implements, and other Indian material, which was brought together by Dr. A. J. Anderson, president of the University in the late 70's. In 1880, Dr. David Starr Jordon made the first collection of fishes of Puget sound and presented the University with several jars of some of the rarer species, which were added to the museum collection. In 1883 a society known as the Young Naturalists' Society, previously formed, was given permission by the Board of Regents of the University to erect a building on the University campus, and all material then in the possession of the museum was turned over to the society. Besides this a large collection of birds, eggs, shells, crustacea, etc., was turned over to the society by Prof. O. B. Johnson, of the University, and the collections, added to what they already had, made quite a showing as a museum.

Later when the University moved out to its present location, several collections of ethnological, geological and zoological materials were secured from various sources and placed on exhibition in the Administration building. Prof. O. B. Johnson was appointed curator, which position he held until his retirement in 1897. At the end of the World's Columbian Exposition, held at Chicago in 1893, two carloads of additional material were secured and the museum collections were becoming of some importance. In 1899 the legislature of the State of Washington enacted a law that the state museum should be located at the University, and provided that state, county and other officers, while in the discharge of their duties, should save all specimens of a scientific or historical character and deposit them in this museum. This has had the tendency to bring many valuable

specimens from different parts of the state, and also several loan collections. Very extensive collections were received from the Washington State commissions at the close of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, held at St. Louis; the Lewis and Clarke Exposition, held at Portland, and of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, held at Seattle. Besides, the museum was very fortunate in receiving some very large exhibits made by the national government, county and other state commissions at the latter fair. In this way some rare and valuable exhibits of the mineral products, fisheries, fruits, grains, forest products, ethnological and educational material of the state and Alaska have been installed. In 1906 the entire collection of the Young Naturalists' Society, which up to that time had been in their quarters on the old University campus down town, was turned over to the University and made quite an addition to the already large collections possessed by the museum. Up to the present time the museum had no regular building to itself, or a regular curator since Prof. Johnson's retirement, and the museum specimens were exhibited in various halls and rooms of the Administration building and of Science Hall, which, owing to the rapid growth of the collection, had become very much crowded. At the end of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, which was held on a portion of the University campus, two buildings of the exposition, viz., the Forestry building and the California building, were designated as museum buildings, and the former museum material, together with that secured from the exposition, has been moved into them. A curator has been secured, who has entire charge of the museum material, and who is arranging it for exhibition and for study purposes.

The museum proper is housed in what was known as the California building during the exposition. Its architectural style is that of the old Spanish mission. It is an imposing structure, with more than 26,000 square feet of exhibition space, besides space for storage and work rooms, offices and lecture room. The central part of the building is two stories high, with forty foot open gallery on four sides. The skylight is 80 by 80 feet and the building is admirably lighted for exhibition purposes. The mineral and geological exhibits will be on the first floor and the historical and ethnological collections on the second. Facilities will be offered to those wishing to use the museum collections for purposes of study.

The Forestry building, which is the home of the biological museum (which includes botany, zoology and forestry), is archaic Greek in style, following the lines of the Grecian temples. It is

three hundred sixteen feet long, one hundred forty-six feet wide and two stories high. The frame work consists of huge columns made from native fir trees. The columns vary from five to six feet in diameter and from forty-two to fifty-four feet in height. The building is surmounted with a large tower on either end, giving it a maximum height of one hundred and nineteen feet. The entire lower floor will be used for the exhibition of museum specimens and also the side galleries of the second floor, the end of the galleries being reserved for the use of the School of Forestry as class rooms, laboratories, and offices. The Alaska panorama, a composite painting of Alaskan scenery, which was on exhibition in the Alaska building during the exposition, will be exhibited at the southwest corner of the building, and will be one of the most attractive features in the museum.

BOTANY AND FORESTRY COLLECTIONS

Most of the botanical and forestry material is housed in the Forestry building, and consists of the following: (1) A herbarium of dried flowering plants, representing 8,000 species, properly labeled and kept in suitable cases. These include almost all of the plant species of the state and many from without the state. Besides there is on exhibition the loan collection known as the A. S. Fisher collection, consisting of 125 types of Chehalis county flora, and which was on exhibition in the Chehalis county building during the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition; also the Caroline E. Williams collection of Alaska wild flowers, gathered 150 miles above the Arctic Circle, which attracted so much attention in the Alaska building during the recent exposition; (2) a collection of mosses, the largest in the Northwest; (3) an exhibit of the fruits and nuts from the horticultural sections of the state, which are exhibited in large glass jars, properly labeled and neatly arranged; (4) cabinets of grains and grasses on the straw from the agricultural districts of the state and of Alaska; (5) a comprehensive display of timber of various kinds, showing the logs just as they leave the forest, besides sections and cross-sections of big timbers. Various kinds of woods in a finished condition are also displayed, and there are many samples showing flooring, paneling, ceiling work and other uses to which wood is put in decorating the interior of residence and office buildings. There is also a display of tested timbers of all sizes, such as tested bridge stringers and wagon axles, end compression tests, cross-breaking tests, etc., of different western woods, which are of special value for use in the School of Forestry. Mention must be made of the

very complete series of Philippine woods purchased at the end of the Lewis and Clarke Expedition.

GEOLOGY COLLECTION

The geological exhibit collection will be arranged on the main floor, and central portion of the museum building, occupying a space of about 6,400 square feet. The museum received from the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition the greater part of the exhibits of ores and minerals made in the Alaska and Mines buildings, making the mineral collection one of the largest in the West. The collections are as follows: (1) The large collection of Alaska ores and minerals will be arranged topographically to illustrate the resources of the different regions in Alaska; (2) the collection of minerals and ores from the Northwest, especially from the state of Washington, is very extensive and complete; (3) one of the most valuable individual collections is the mineral collection known as the John R. Baker collection, consisting of more than a thousand specimens from different parts of the world and mostly crystalline in form; (4) a very complete series of minerals, ores and geological specimens of Japan, which were received at the end of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition; (5) the museum possesses a very large economic collection of clay and clay products, like brick, tile, terra cotta, pottery, etc., building and ornamental stones and marbles, coal and coke, and other useful minerals and rocks, with their products; (6) a general collection of palaeontological specimens from the fossiliferous formation of the state, among which are a number of newly-described type specimens; (7) a college collection of palaeontology from the Ward Natural Science establishment, representing the characteristic invertebrate forms from the Palaeozoic and Mesozoic eras; (2) an extensive collection of maps, models and mounted photographs illustrative of the mining operations in Alaska.

The museum has a large collection of duplicate ores and minerals for exchange purposes, and would be glad to open up an exchange with other institutions having exchange material.

ETHNOLOGY COLLECTION

The entire gallery on the second floor of the museum building is given up to the historical and ethnological collections, the latter said to be one of the best and largest on the Pacific coast. It contains extensive collections pertaining to the history and ethnology of the Northwest; also collections from Alaska and the Philippine Islands. Constant additions are being made to the

museum in the way of gifts and purchases, and the different exhibitions held at Chicago, St. Louis, Portland and Seattle have been particularly helpful to the museum, from which the following collections have been secured:

The entire collection of ethnological materials made by the state of Washington for the World's Columbian Exposition, 1893, was saved and placed in this museum.

The Stewart collection of more than 20,000 specimens was purchased at the end of the Lewis and Clarke Centennial Exposition in 1905, and is now installed in the museum. This collection consists of various Indian weapons, pestles, stone axes, baskets, and other implements illustrative of the life of the Indians along the lower Columbia river, and was accumulated by the late Dr. R. E. Stewart during his lifetime. The collection is of great historic value and affords a fine opportunity for study to the student interested in the ethnological history of the Northwest.

The Philippine collection was also purchased at the end of the Lewis and Clarke Centennial Exposition for the University, and is of considerable educational value in that it gives one a good idea of the resources and industries of the Philippine Islands, and the history and development of their peoples. Most of the articles in this collection were collected among the Tagals, who have been in contact with Spanish civilization for several centuries, and are the progressive inhabitants of Luzon. They occupy the coast and fertile interior lands, many of their tools and utensils being represented by various fish traps, baskets, nets, knives for cutting grass, bolos, digging sticks, traps, winnowing and storage baskets, agricultural implements, etc.; also examples of weaving and rope manufacture, besides forestry specimens, leaf tobacco and grains.

The Emmons collection of ethnological material from South-eastern Alaska is undoubtedly one of the most valuable collections possessed by any museum from that portion of Alaska, and is all catalogued and scientifically arranged. It shows well the life of the Tlingit people before they had been influenced by their contact with the white man. Their skill in wood carving is very great, as is shown by examples of various dishes, platters, bowls, boxes and chests, decorated with carving in round or low relief, the designs being derived from the copious mythology of their tribes. Beautifully carved spoons from the horn of the Rocky mountain goat are inlaid with shells and show a skill hardly imaginable in an uncivilized people. The ceremonial costumes are varied and consist of head-dress masks, neck and

breast ornaments, skirt and breast ornaments, blankets, rattles and ceremonial batons. Their domestic life is represented by articles of the household, men's and women's working tools, and hunting and fishing implements. Some of the finest examples of basketry in North America are found in this collection. The forms are varied and the patterns are derived from natural objects. This collection consists of about 1,800 specimens, and was secured for the museum at the end of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, where it was on exhibition in the Alaska building.

The museum received as a loan from the United States government the collection of over 200 bronze medals, duplicates of those given by Congress for acts of heroism and valor. These medals were exhibited by the treasury department at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. Besides, a collection of photographs illustrative of life at West Point military academy, which was exhibited by the war department, also came to the museum at the end of the exposition. These collections will be placed in the historical department, which is already represented by a great many relics of historical interest from the Northwest, and of Alaska.

ZOOLOGY COLLECTION

The zoological specimens will be on exhibition in the Forestry building, and when this collection is classified and arranged, it will afford an excellent opportunity for the study of the fauna of the state. The nucleus of many other collections has been formed by gifts from various sources. From Mr. Edwin C. Starks were received over one hundred mounted fishes, and through his efforts there was secured from the Field Museum of Natural History a beautiful series of corals.

Conchology is well represented by the extensive series of molluscs donated by Prof. O. B. Johnson, and the collection of over ten thousand shells belonging to Mr. P. B. Randolph. The latter collection contains specimens from all over the world, and includes a nearly complete series of mollusca indigenous of the Puget sound region. There have also been received the valuable and varied collections of the Young Naturalists' Society, of Seattle. This contains, besides a fine series of shells, invertebrates and fishes, the large orinithological collection of Prof. O. B. Johnson. The birds of the collection have been identified by Miss Adelaide G. Pollock. The series has been greatly extended through the generosity of Dr. Clinton C. Cook, who has loaned a fine collection of Passerine forms to the museum.

A fine collection of mounted birds and mammals from Kitsap county, Washington, which was on exhibition in the Forestry building during the exposition, was donated to the museum and forms a very important part of the exhibit series. Additional specimens from the same county will be added from time to time to fill out the series.

At the end of the Lewis and Clarke Centennial Exposition, a very large number of mollusca and fishes were turned over to the museum by the state commission; also a fine series of Alaska fishes, which were on exhibition in the Alaska building during the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. The number of classified specimens is being constantly enlarged, and the museum has received extensive collections from the Bermuda Islands and the Atlantic coast through the efforts of Prof. Trevor Kincaid of the University. Large collections are being received from the marine station at Friday Harbor on Puget sound, and the museum will not only possess a fine exhibit series, but will also have duplicate material for study and exchange purposes.

EDUCATION COLLECTION

Large portions of the educational exhibits on exhibition in the Educational and California buildings, and all of the Alaska and Japanese exhibits were turned over to the museum at the end of the the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. These exhibits consist of over 6,000 specimens of the work done in the kindergarten and primary grades and the grammar and high school. It is planned that the museum shall offer special facilities to the school teachers of the state in showing some of the best examples of school work and what the latest methods in teaching have developed. Included in the specimens from Alaska are many examples of art and industrial work which will be especially valuable illustrations of these up-to-date methods, and are hard to excel anywhere. There are about forty cabinets of the work done by the various grades in all departments of school curriculum which will be on exhibition or easy of access to those especially interested along these lines. The museum was very fortunate in securing the industrial exhibit made by the Los Angeles Polytechnic School, which attracted so much attention in the California building during the exposition, and it may be considered as one of the best examples in industrial training for boys. There are also specimens of sewing and needlework done by pupils from the lower grades up through the high school.

Besides the above named material, there are extensive com-

mercial exhibits, which will be of considerable interest to the public and will be used in class work of the University. The museum has an excellent lecture room, adapted for stereopticon lectures, and it is the plan of the museum management to arrange for a series of lectures, some time in the future, illustrative of the different collections of the museum.

The museum will be glad to receive, either as gifts or loans, such specimens or collections as may be of historical or scientific interest; and it will properly care for them. Communications regarding any phase of museum work should be addressed to F. S. Hall, Curator, State Museum, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.

